



Fall Adult Forum Schedule

September 11 – December 18, 2022
9:30 – 10:30 a.m. in the Chapel Lounge

September 11

The Gift of Family Music and Godly Play

*Mari Espeland
Susan Mallison*

Mari Espeland, who hosts Mount Olive's Family Music online, will lead the forum to experience how that ministry happens. Then the focus will shift to Godly Play, a remarkable way of bringing the faith stories to life in a program that Mount Olive adopted fifteen years ago. Susan Mallison, a Twin Cities Godly Play expert, will demonstrate how it works and challenge us to recall the richness of learning like children do. Adults, children, and families with children are welcome.

September 18 & 25

**Learning to Live Nonviolently
after Leaving the Military**

Al Bostelmann

Five years ago, Mount Olive member Al Bostelmann was invited along with five others from the Minneapolis Synod to the ELCA headquarters for a Day of Discernment, where church leaders as well as members of the military discussed and debated issues of war and peace.

Based on his forty years of metanoia, his own development as a person of faith and rich experiences, Al will explore with us the history of Christianity regarding violence and nonviolence as it relates to recent police and school shootings and current efforts of civilians to weaponize households. Most important, we will explore and discuss nonviolence training as an answer to these problems.

October 2

Being a Faithful Voter
Global Ministry Committee

Mount Olive's Global Ministry Committee will lead a discussion about what it might mean to be a faithful voter this fall. We will be using the guide offered by Minnesota Interfaith Power and Light, and we hope to have responses to our questions from representative, senator, and governor candidates. We will focus on four issues: climate justice, immigration policy, racial justice, and health care.

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October 9

The Impact of Grief & Loss

Thomas Ellis

The experience of grief and loss affects us in a comprehensive manner. Our bodies, minds, and spirits are all changed by the experience. And not all losses are as obvious as others. Thomas Ellis, a licensed marriage and family therapist at Crocus Hill Counseling Center in St. Paul, will be our presenter. He is the author of *This Thing Called Grief* and has presented to many area congregations on the topic of grief and loss.

October 16

Preview of Mount Olive Budget

In preparation for the congregational meeting on October 23, the forum will give you an opportunity to review the budget and ask any questions you may have.

October 23

Faith Development for the Youngest in Our Community

Jim Bargmann

There is an overwhelming amount of information available to parents and grandparent about raising children. From medical professionals to psychologists to educators, there is no shortage of research, advice, and recommendations. But what about faith development? Jesus himself lauds a “childlike faith,” but what does that mean? Part of our Lutheran theology and practice is the baptism of babies, but why?

Combining information from research in the scientific fields of psychology and medicine with our understanding of faith practices, Jim Bargmann, Mount Olive’s coordinator of neighborhood ministry, will provide an opportunity to learn not only about the foundations of childhood faith but also practical activities that all who care about the children in our community can do to encourage parents and support faith development in the youngest among us.

October 30

The Foundations for Our Work in the Neighborhood

Jim Bargmann

The concrete examples of what we do in our community are well known: diapers, food, bus cards, laundry, rent support and more. *But why do we do what we do?* What are the biblical and theological foundations for our work in the neighborhood? What teachings inform our decision making about how we go about our work and what we do? These are challenging questions but so important to our work and the focus of that work. This forum will help discover where Christians find motivation for their work and how they make decisions about what work they do from a faith perspective.

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November 6, 13, & 20

The Year of Matthew's Gospel

Pastor Crippen

November 27 is the first Sunday of Advent, the beginning of the church year. This year we return to Series A with its focus on Matthew's Gospel. Pastor Crippen will present for three Sundays on the Matthean gospel, and themes found there.

November 27

No Adult Forum

December 4

Martin Luther's Radical God

December 11

Martin Luther's Not-So-Sentimental Christmas

Mark Tranvik

Our presenter for these two weeks will be Mark Tranvik, professor of Reformation history and theology at Luther Seminary in St. Paul. He is an ordained ELCA pastor and served a congregation in Brooklyn Center for ten years. He was also a professor of religion at Augsburg University for twenty-five years. He translated and edited Martin Luther's *The Freedom of a Christian* and is the author of *Martin Luther and the Called Life*.

December 18

Topic to Be Announced

Vicar Mollie Hamre